

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (New) A multiple access subscriber link providing telecommunications between customer premise equipment and external networks, comprising:

first external network interface facilities having non-dedicated time shared multiplexer components for processing broadband transmission of voice, data and/or signaling;

second external network interface facilities having multiple dedicated line cards for handling narrowband plain old telephone (POT) transmissions;

a subscriber server having interconnections with multiple customer premise devices;

a conductor wire pair with a remote end connected to said first and said second external network interface facilities, and with a local end connected to said subscriber server; and

a subscriber telephone having a safety life line connectable through the conductor wire pair to said second external network interface facilities for providing a backup communication link through said dedicated line cards in said second external network interface facilities when a system or component failure occurs.

13. (New) The subscriber link of claim 12 further comprising a switch for providing a safety life line bypassing components in said subscriber server when a system or component failure occurs.

14. (New) The subscriber link of claim 12 further comprising a switch for providing a safety life line bypassing multiplexer components in said first external network when a system or component failure occurs.

15. (New) The subscriber link of claim 12 further comprising an analog subscriber telephone using a first portion of a frequency spectrum of said subscriber link as a safety life line when a system or component failure occurs.

16. (New) The subscriber link of claim 15 wherein said analog subscriber telephone is permanently connected to a line card of said second external network interface facilities.

17. (New) The subscriber link of claim 12 which further includes a line monitor for triggering a switch to connect a safety life line to a line card when a system or component failure occurs.

18. (New) The subscriber link of claim 12 wherein said backup communication link through said line cards serves as a termination of an analog subscriber phone line as

well as interfacing digital communications to a calling/called plain old telephone (POT) connection.

19. (New) The subscriber link of claim 12 which further includes a subscriber analog telephone capable of pulse or DEMF dialing, and connectable to a safety life line.

20. (New) A multiple access subscriber link providing telecommunications between customer premise equipment and external networks, comprising:

first external network interface facilities having non-dedicated time shared multiplexer components for processing broadband transmission of voice, data and/or signaling;

second external network interface facilities having multiple dedicated line cards for handling narrowband plain old telephone (POT) transmissions;

a subscriber server having interconnections with multiple customer premise devices;

a conductor wire pair with a remote end connected to said first and said second external network interface facilities, and with a local end connected to said subscriber server; and

an analog subscriber telephone having a safety life line connectable by a switch through the conductor wire pair to said second external network interface facilities for providing a backup communication link through said dedicated line cards in said second external network interface facilities when a system or component failure occurs, said

switch bypassing said multiplexer components in said first external network interface and said subscriber server.

21. (New) A multiple access subscriber link providing telecommunications between customer premise equipment and external networks, comprising:

first external network interface facilities having non-dedicated time shared multiplexer components for processing broadband transmission of voice, data and/or signaling;

second external network interface facilities having multiple dedicated line cards for handling narrowband plain old telephone (POT) transmissions;

a subscriber server having interconnections with multiple customer premise devices;

a conductor wire pair with a remote end connected to said first and said second external network interface facilities, and with a local end connected to said subscriber server; and

an analog subscriber telephone having a safety life line connectable through the conductor wire pair to said second external network interface facilities for providing a backup communication link through said dedicated line cards in said second external network interface facilities when a system or component failure occurs, wherein said safety life line connection is provided using a first portion of a frequency spectrum of said subscriber link.

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